



PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-20-14
November 2, 2020

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) intention to issue a General Permit as described in this notice. This permit is issued by the DEQ under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on DEQ's website www.deq.mt.gov

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PERMIT/CATEGORY: General Permit; Produced Water

GEOGRAPHIC REGION: Statewide

FACILITIES: Oil and Natural Gas Production Facilities

RECEIVING WATERS: Statewide Ephemeral Water Bodies

PERMIT NUMBER: MTG310000

The renewal of this Produced Water General Permit (PWGP) will continue to provide statewide general permit coverage for owners/operators of oil and gas production facilities that discharge produced water into statewide ephemeral drainages and impoundments constructed in ephemeral drainages. The renewal is for a five-year cycle.

This PWGP only permits the discharge of produced water for beneficial use, specifically for wildlife and livestock watering. The permit includes effluent limits and has two prerequisites: a receiving water storage capacity self-evaluation to ensure discharge is contained in ephemeral drainages, and a water quality analysis to ensure the produced water is of high enough quality for wildlife and livestock watering. Indian Lands, National Parks, and the state waters in Rosebud Creek, Tongue, Powder, and Little Powder River watersheds are excluded from General Permit coverage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS December 7, 2020. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Protection Bureau, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS December 7, 2020 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail DEQ at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov

On December 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. a public hearing will be held online on the draft general permit, fact sheet, environmental assessment, and DEQ's tentative determination to reissue the permit. Please contact Joanna McLaughlin at joanna.mclaughlin@mt.gov on or before December 2, 2020 for details on how to attend.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Joanna McLaughlin no later than December 2, 2020, to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You can email Joanna at joanna.mclaughlin@mt.gov or write to the address noted to make your request known.

DEQ will respond to all significant comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-5546 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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